1	2	3	4	5
	14:35:14	0	0	7100
	12:32:16	13100	36200	69100
	10:26:26	21600	59200	76300
Total (PPL):		271000	59200	763100
Total Private Sector		2095800	2726900	3298600
TOTAL: (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):		45111001	45383400	6764200

Awareness about the schemes

*173. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of awareness among the farmers is a major cause of concern;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to a report by NSSO, 30 per cent of farmers in the country are not aware of minimum support price scheme and other schemes; and

(c) if so, what measures have been undertaken by Government to make the farmers aware of the various schemes of Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c)

1. Creating awareness among the farmers about the Government schemes and other related areas is an ongoing process.

2. However, as per the Situational Assessment Survey (SAS) carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) during July, 2002 — June, 2003, it has emerged that only about 29% of the farmers were aware of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

3. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has taken several steps in the recent past to support State's efforts in creating greater awareness among the farmers. Some of the important steps are listed below:—

(i) Information on DAC schemes has been uploaded on its website (www. agricoop. nic. in)

(ii) Kisan Call Centres (KCC) are providing information, including on

Government schemes, to the farming community through toll free telephone lines throughout the country. The toll free number -1551 - is regularly publicized during agricultural programmes being broadcast by Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) under the Mass Media Scheme of the DAC.

(iii) State and District level agricultural fairs are supported by the DAC under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Programme. Such fairs provide an important opportunity for creating awareness on Government schemes and variety of farm related activities.

(iv) Funds are also provided to District ATMAs for creating awareness through leaflets and print media.

(v) 96 FM Stations of All India Radio and 180 High/Low Power Transmitters, 18 Regional Kendra and DD National channel of Doordarshan are broadcasting 30-minute agricultural programmes, including those on Government Schemes and related success stories, five/six days a week. State Level Monitoring Committee headed by Principal Secretary (Agriculture) of the State provides general guidance to DD and AIR on programming and related aspects.

(vi) Financial assistance is also provided to the States under AGRISNET initiative for providing improved services to the farming community through use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Dissemination of information on Government Schemes is an important service listed in most of the approved AGRISNET projects. The Department of IT, Government of India is setting up of 100,000 Common Service Centres (CSC) which would facilitate IT access in the villages.

Bomb blast on Samjhauta Express

*174. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many passengers were killed/injured in the Delhi-Wagah Samjhauta Express explosions and the details of the compensation paid